

October 11, 2006

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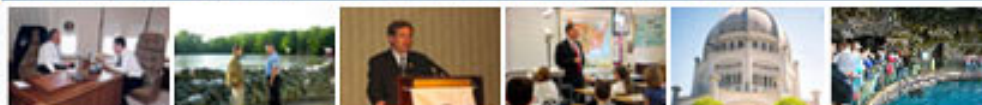
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U.S. Congressman

# Mark Steven Kirk

Proudly serving the people of the 10th District of Illinois



U.S. Congressman Mark Steven Kirk, 10th District of Illinois

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## Mark Kirk In the News...

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## Latest Press Releases

5/18/2006: [Kirk Secures Over \\$43 Million for New Navy/VA Hospital and Improvements for Great Lakes](#)

5/17/2006: [Kirk Brings Together Metra Officials, Community Leaders to Evaluate Metra's North-Central Line Service Schedule](#)

Dear &lt;:Firstname: &gt; ,

Thank you for your commitment to the tenth district and country. This month I want to highlight some of the work we are doing to help protect our children from internet sexual predators, maintain healthy suburban communities and expand Chinese language programs so we can be competitive in a global economy.

### *The Suburban Agenda*

With over half of Americans living in suburban communities today, I formed a caucus of over fifty Congressional to form Suburban Caucus. We have worked for six months to design an agenda for Congress to meet key suburban priorities in education, health care, economic growth and conservation.

Gangs are moving to our suburban communities, thousands of online predators are trying to contact our kids, green and open space is rapidly disappearing from our neighborhoods, and millions of Americans worry that it may be more difficult for their children to enter the middle class than it was for us. Our Agenda for action is picking up support with congressional leaders and many democrats joining this bipartisan effort.


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**The Suburban Agenda**

**Our Families      Our Communities      Our Commitment**

**To Do -**

<b>School Safety Acquiring Faculty Excellence Act</b>	
Rep. Jon Porter	H.R. 4894
<b>Charitable Donations for Open Space Act</b>	
Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick	H.R. 5056
<b>The Health IT Promotion Act</b>	
Rep. Nancy Johnson	H.R. 4157
<b>401 Kids Family Savings Account</b>	
Rep. Clay Shaw	H.R. 5314
<b>Deleting Online Predators Act</b>	
Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick	H.R. 5319
<b>Gang Elimination Act of 2006</b>	
Rep. Dave Reichert	H.R. 5291
<b>Open Space and Farmland Preservation Act</b>	
Rep. Jim Gerlach	H.R. 5313

### ***Protecting our Kids From Sexual Predators***

Congressman Frank Wolf and I sent a letter to the Federal Trade Commission this month calling for a National Consumer warning for social networking sites such as MySpace.com and Facebook. In the past weeks, there have been several cases of teen age girls being contacted by sexual predators who contacted their victims through MySpace.com. I am pleased that the FTC agreed to begin issuing the consumer warnings but there is much more work that needs to be done.

One in five children receives unwanted sexual advances online. Social networking sites like MySpace.com contain web pages for tens of millions of American children. Using the anonymity of the Internet, pedophiles found a virtual hunting ground to prey on children. I welcome the decision by the FTC to issue a national consumer alert, urging parents to monitor who is contacting their children via these sites and warning children to use

caution when setting up a personal web page.

### ***Expanding Chinese Language Programs***

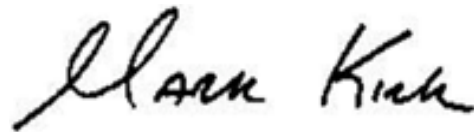
In late April I introduced the *U.S.-China Engagement Act* to expand American high school classes teaching Chinese, increases the number of diplomats posted in China, and provide more help to businesses exporting to China.

Over 150 million Chinese students are learning English while less than 30,000 Americans are learning Chinese. While many of our schools have Spanish, French and Russian language programs, few have Chinese language programs. Mayor Daley has made great strides in this area but we need to do more.

I was proud to unveil the legislation at New Trier High School where enrollment in Chinese language classes rose from 32 to 175

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please call us at (847) 940-0202 or through our Web site at [www.house.gov/kirk](http://www.house.gov/kirk).

Sincerely,



#### **Contact Information**

##### **Washington, DC Office:**

1717 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Phone: 202-225-4835  
Fax: 202-225-0837

##### **Waukegan Office:**

20 South Martin Luther King Dr.  
Waukegan, IL 60085  
Phone: 847-662-0101  
Fax: 847-662-7519

##### **Northbrook Office:**

707 Skokie Blvd, Suite 350  
Northbrook, IL 60062  
Phone: 847-940-0202  
Fax: 847-940-7143

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